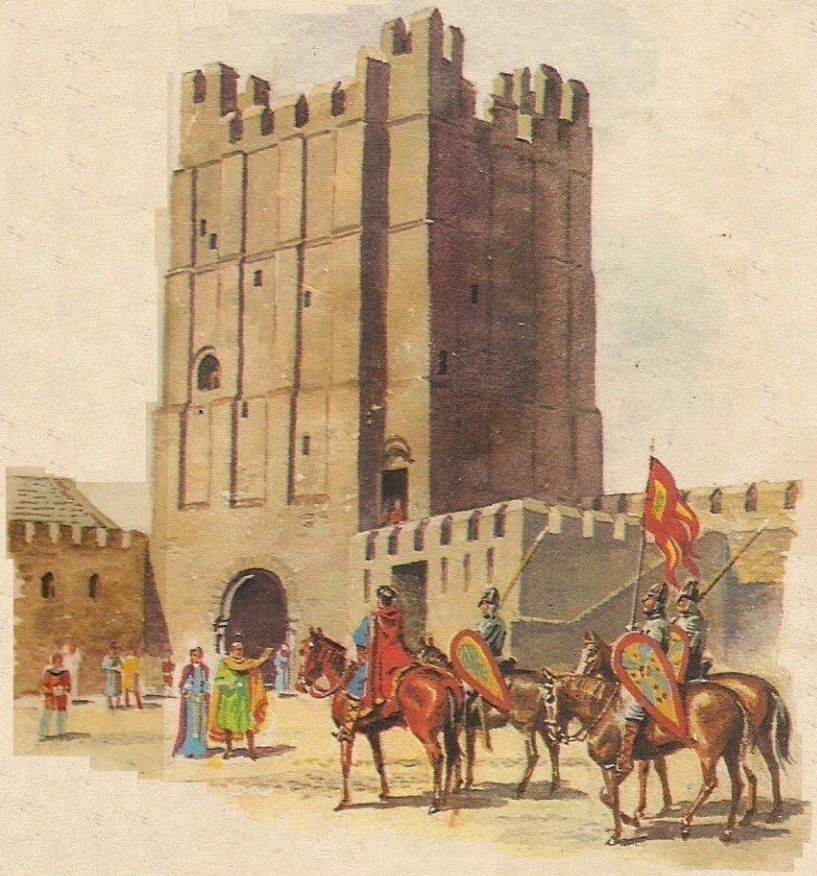
LADYBIRD LEADERS

castles



to teachers and parents

This is a LADYBIRD LEADER book, one of a series specially produced to meet the very real need for carefully planned *first information books* that instantly attract enquiring minds and stimulate reluctant readers.

The subject matter and vocabulary have been selected with expert assistance, and the brief and simple text is printed in large, clear type.

Children's questions are anticipated and facts presented in a logical sequence. Where possible, the books show what happened in the past and what is relevant today.

Special artwork has been commissioned to set a standard rarely seen in books for this reading age and at this price.

Full-colour illustrations are on all 48 pages to give maximum impact and provide the extra enrichment that is the aim of all Ladybird Leaders.

A Ladybird Leader

castles

Written by John West
Illustrated by Frank Humphris

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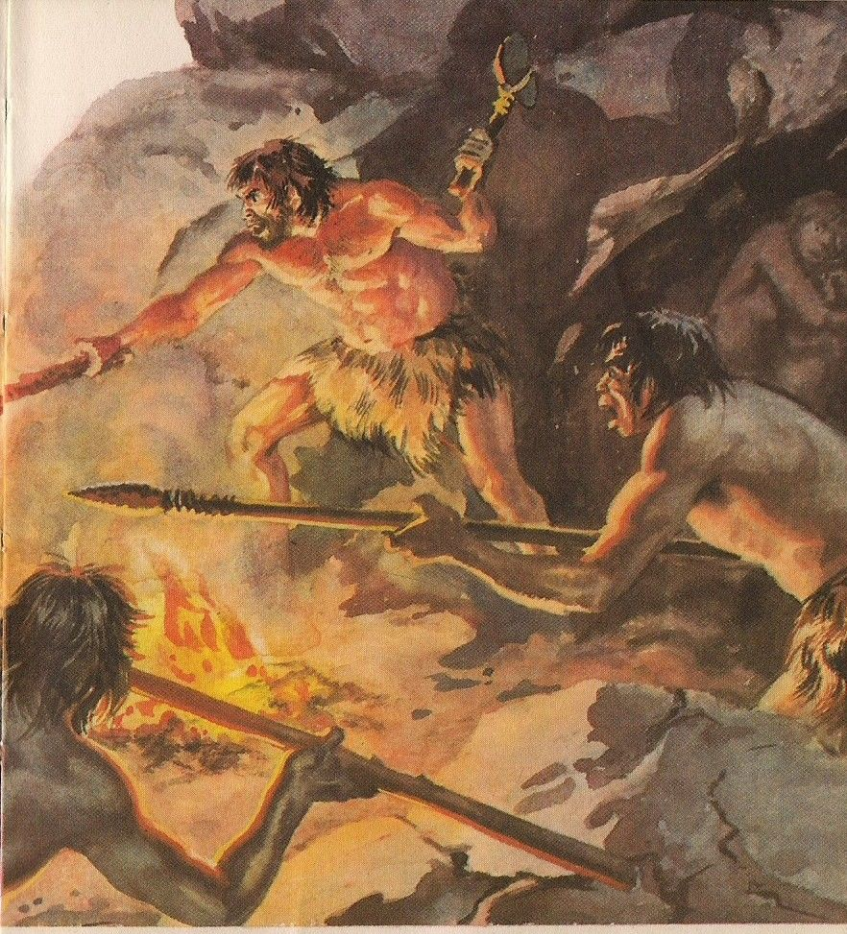
Before the days of castles

Men have always needed a place
where they could be safe.
A cave on a hillside
could be a safe place.

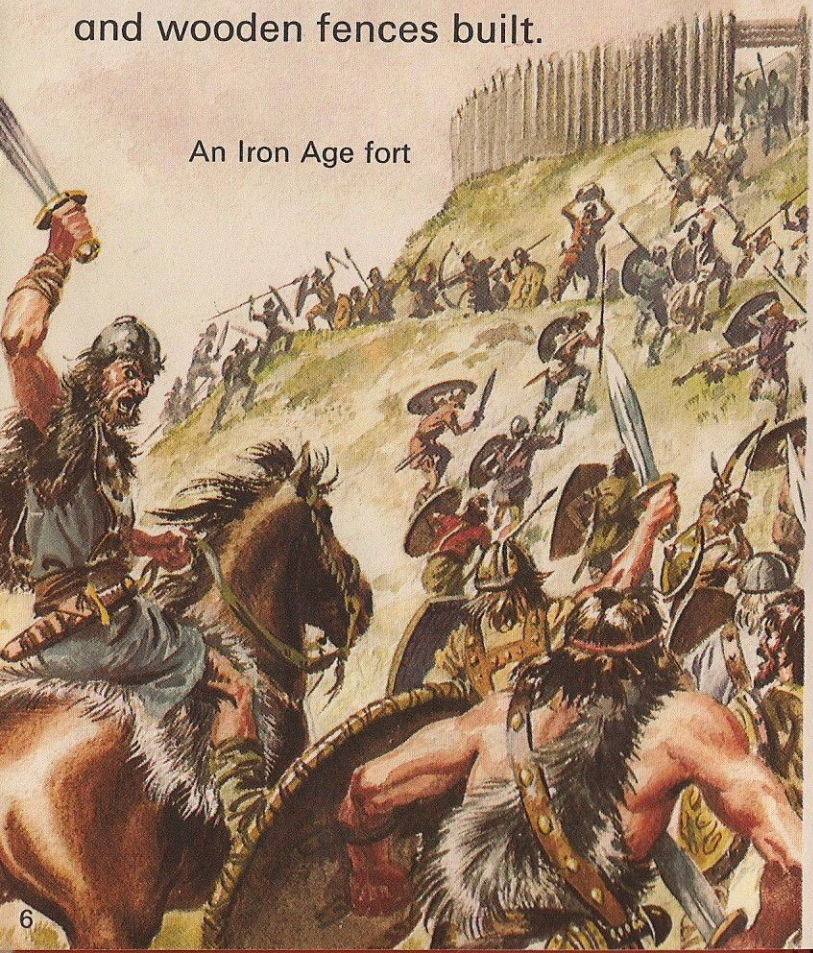


Cave men were often attacked by animals.

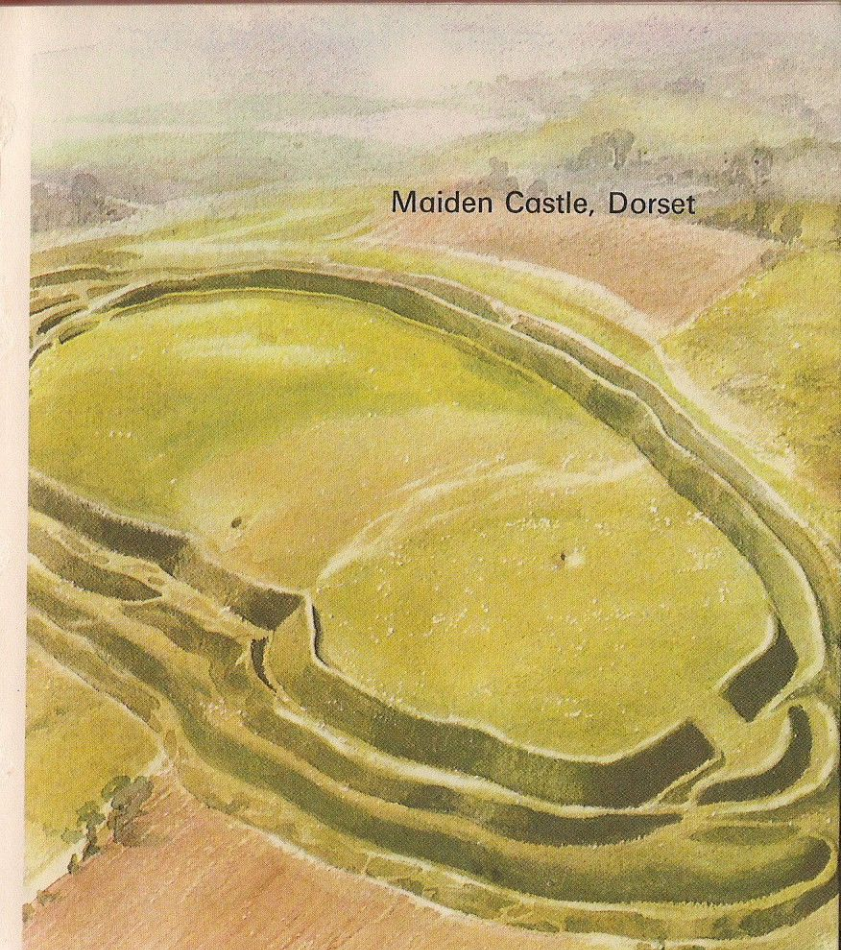
They defended themselves with fire, sticks and stones.

An earth fort high on a hill

Later, the attackers were other tribes.
Hill tops were made into forts.
Ditches were dug round them
and wooden fences built.



An Iron Age fort



Maiden Castle, Dorset

The remains of this old fort
can be seen near Dorchester, England.
It is about ½ mile (.805 km) long.
It has deep ditches and earth banks
as high as a house.

A stone city of Ancient Greece

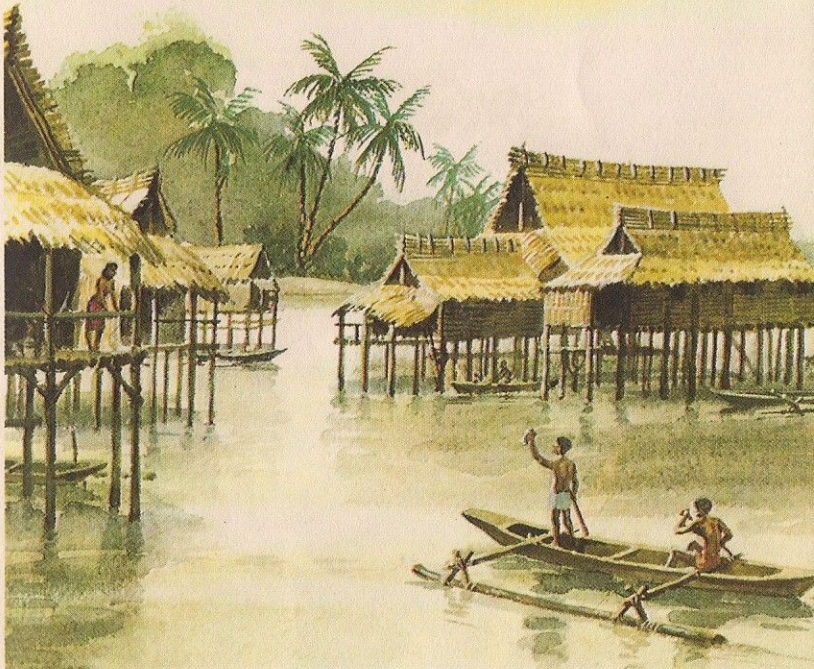
The Acropolis in Athens

This picture shows part
of a very old Greek city.

It is on a rock 500 feet (152.4m) high.

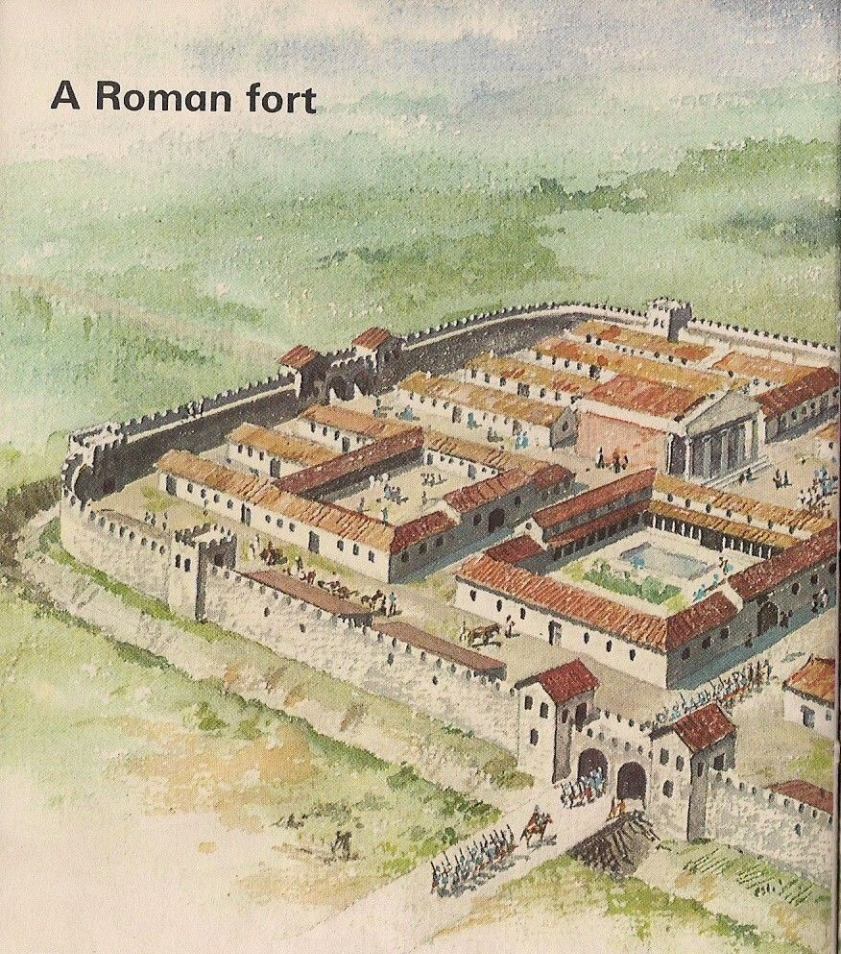
There was only one way in.

A village over water

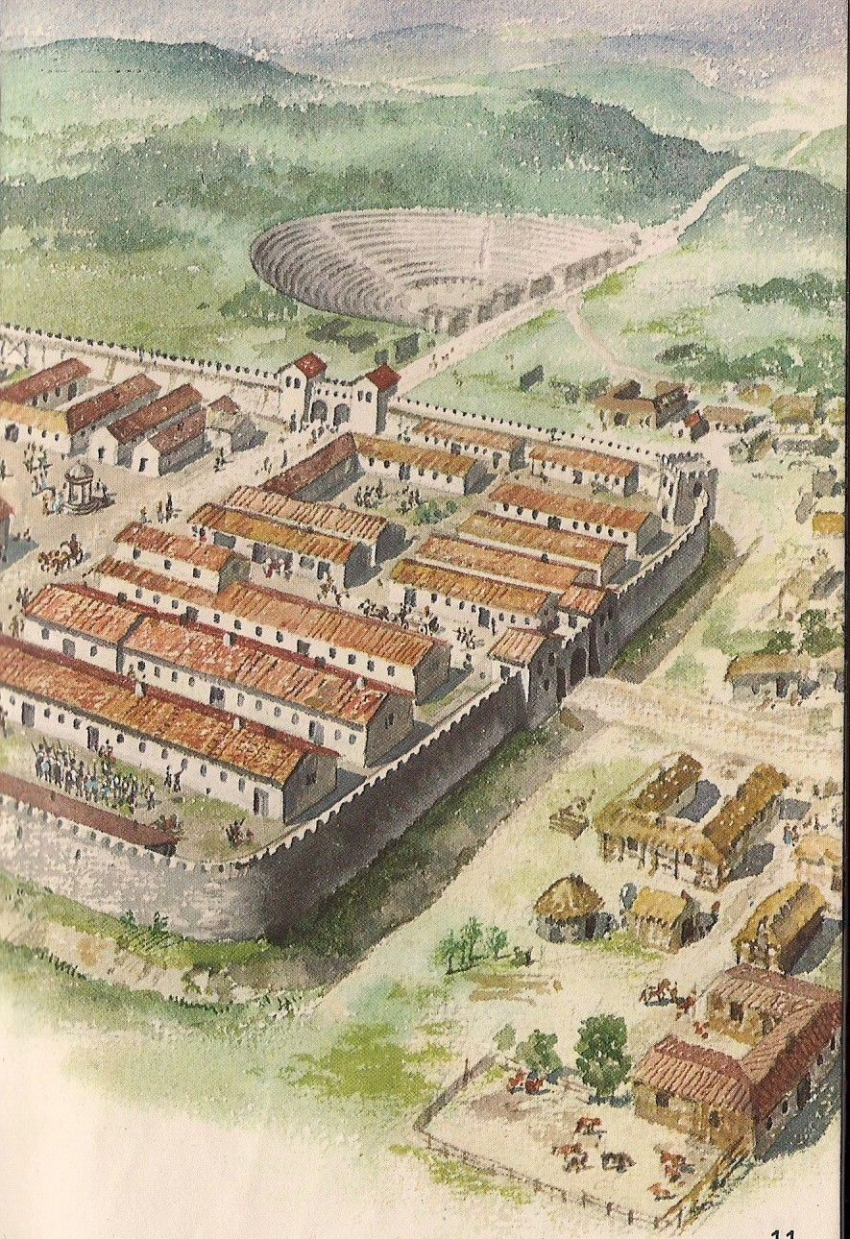


Some very early villages
were built over water.
An enemy could reach them
only by boat.
Villages like this
can still be seen in Borneo.

A Roman fort

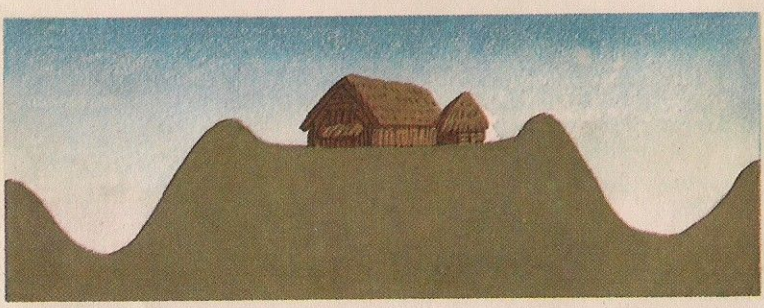


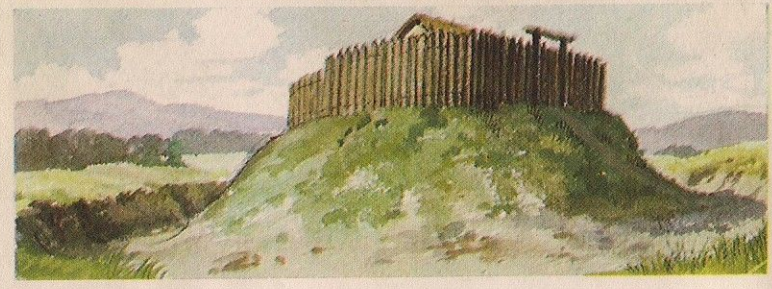
The Romans gave us the word for castle.
They called this fort a 'castrum'.
3,000 soldiers lived here.
A castrum had strong walls
with gates, towers and a ditch.



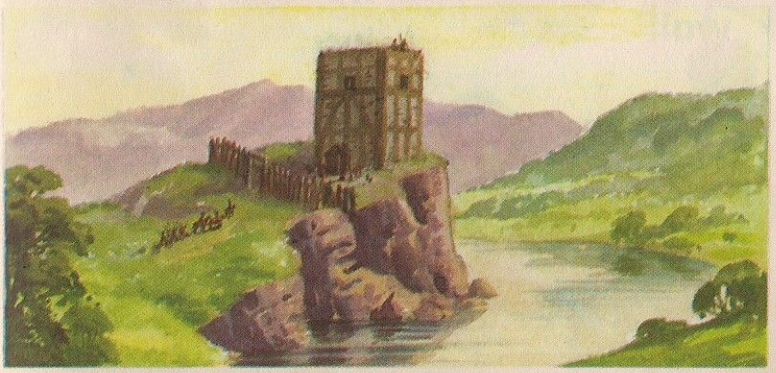
How places became safer

A deep ditch and bank helped to keep attackers away.

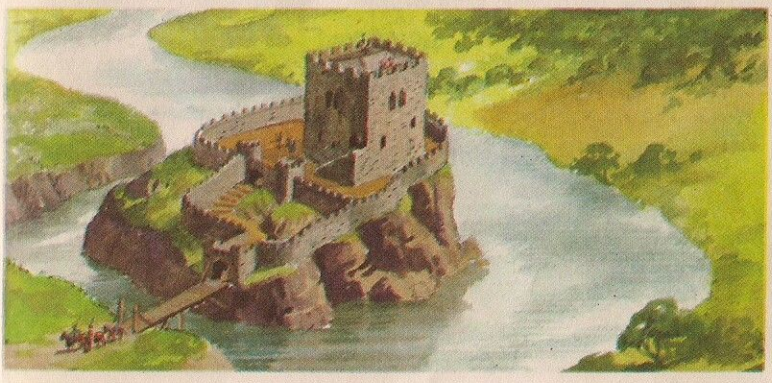




A wooden wall was safer.

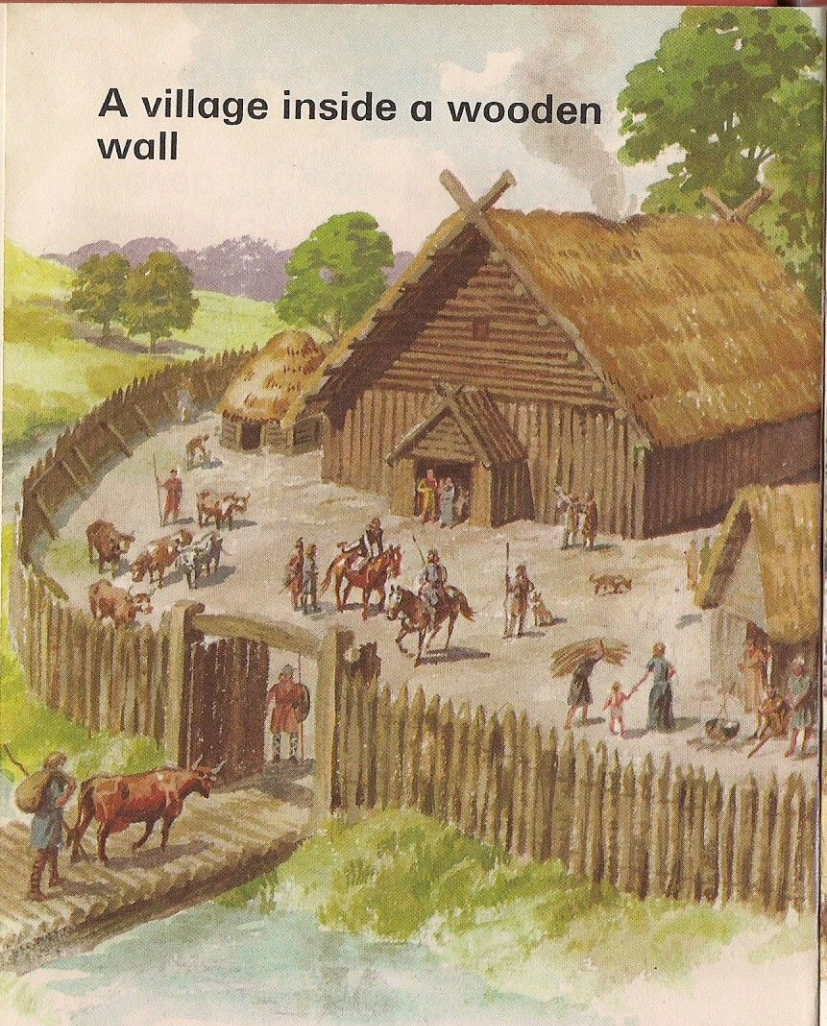


To build on a cliff edge by water
was safer still.

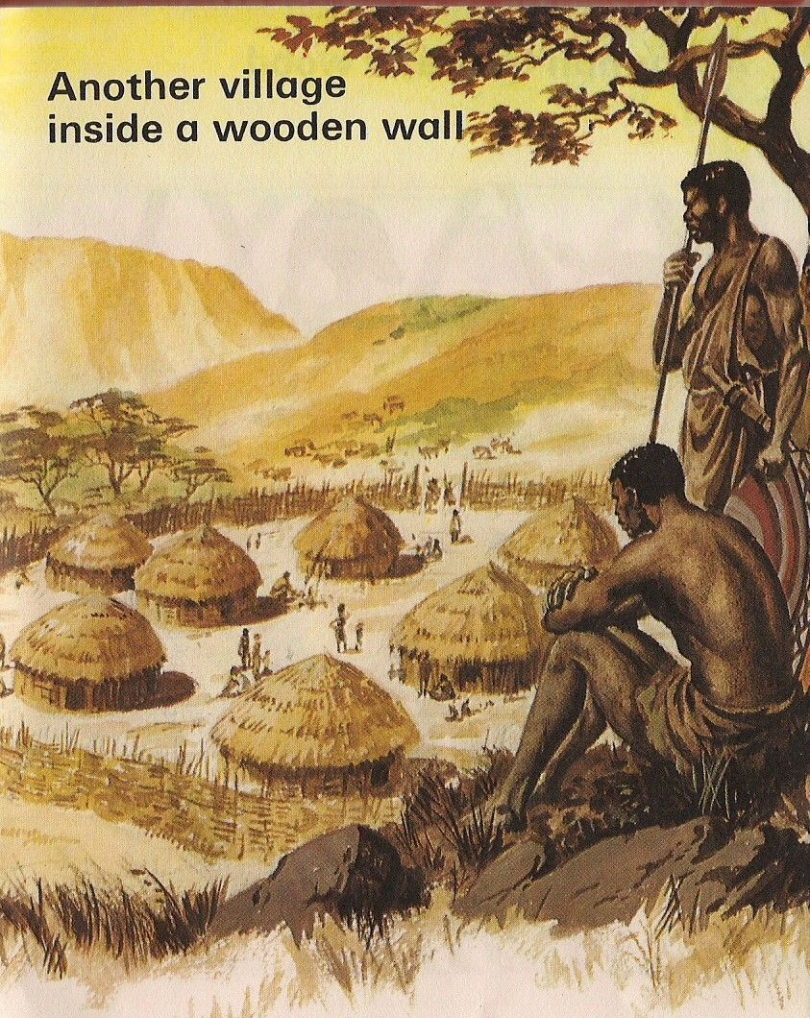


Best of all was to have
water all round.

A village inside a wooden wall



Some people built stone walls.
Others still used wood.
The sharp stakes kept attackers out of this Saxon village.



Africans, too, put fences
around their houses and animals.
Like the Saxons, they built houses
with mud, straw and wood.

A Norman castle of wood

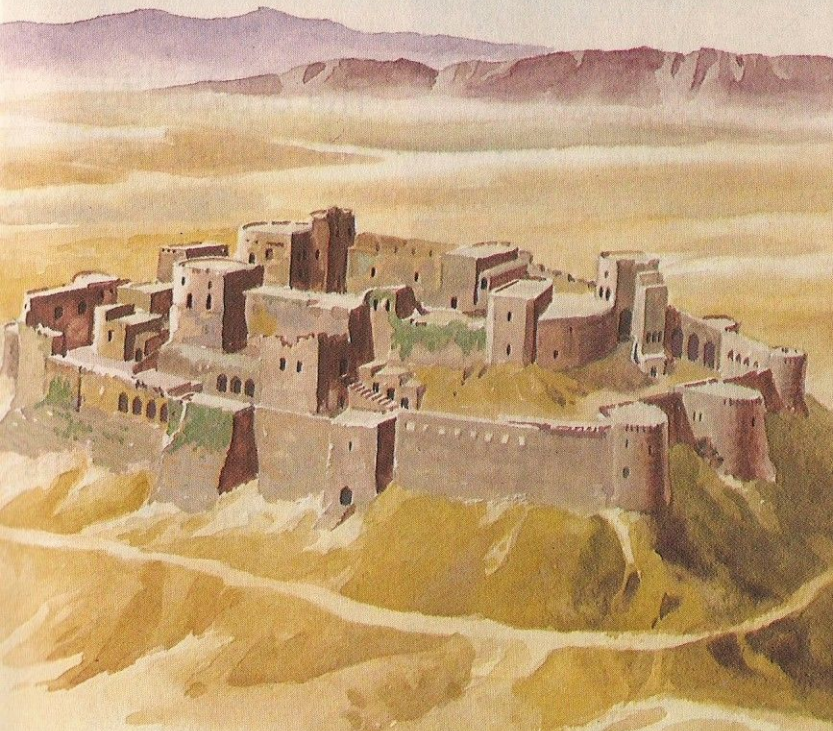
Norman knights built the first castles.
These were in France.
They made a little hill of earth
and put a wooden tower on it.

This picture is part of the famous Bayeaux tapestry.

A Norman castle of stone

Later, the Normans built some stone castles in France, England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

A castle built by Crusaders

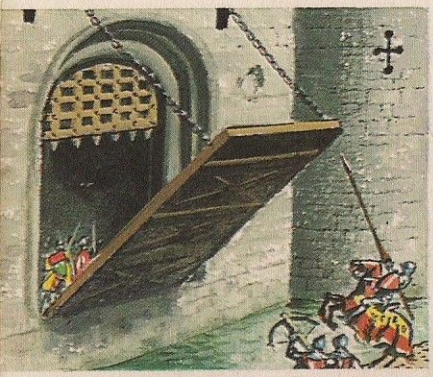


When the Normans fought in Palestine, they were called Crusaders.

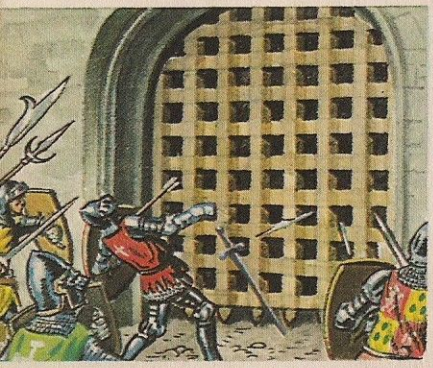
They built castles there and in Egypt.

The ruins are still there in the sand.

Defending a castle in the Middle Ages



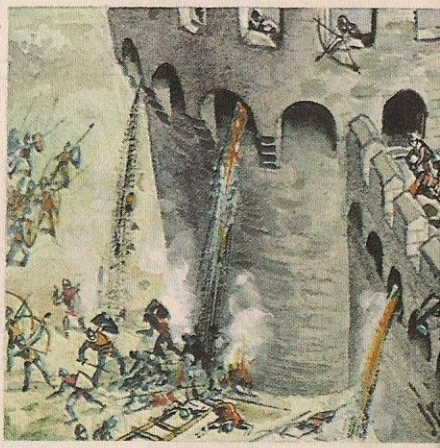
The drawbridge was pulled up.



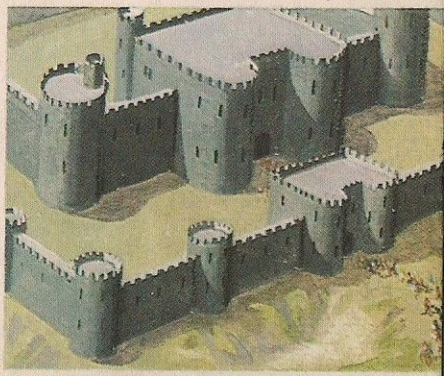
Then the portcullis gate came down.

The first attackers were trapped.

Hot ashes were poured through holes in the walls.



Inside the walls were more walls.

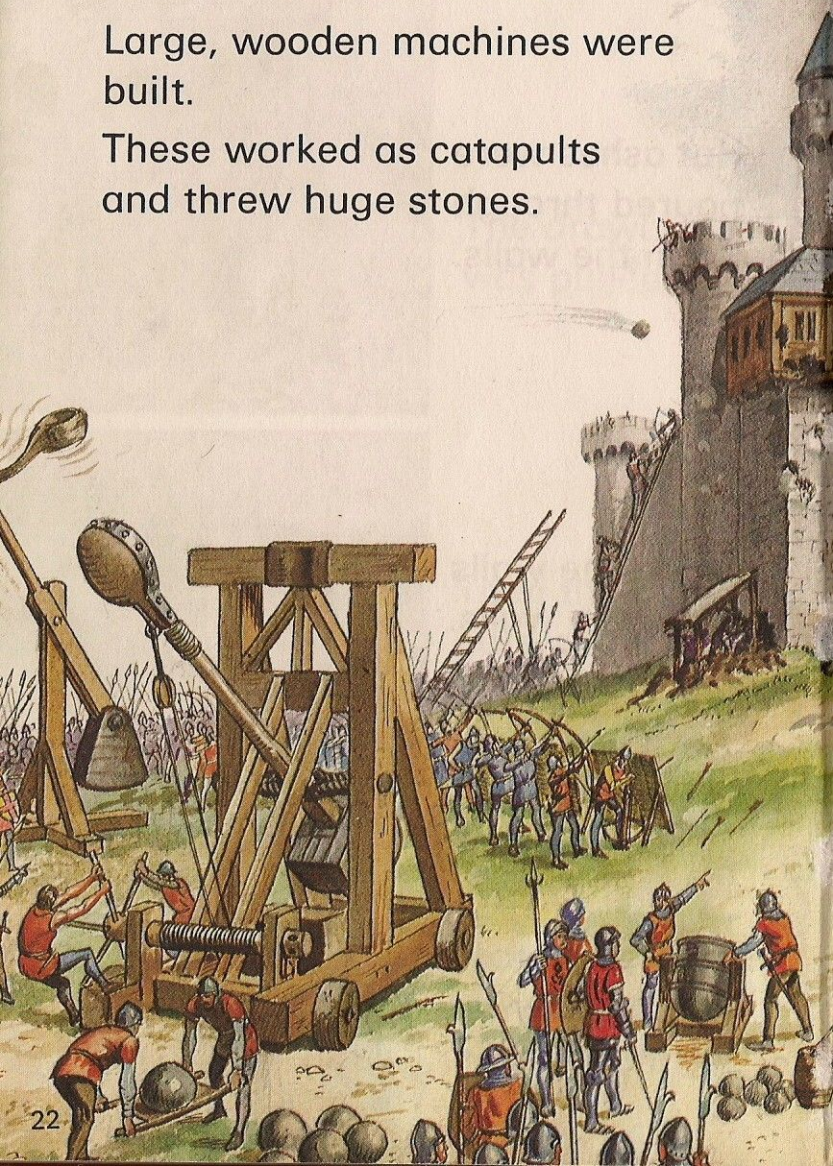


An archer stood at every slit in the walls.

Capturing a castle

Large, wooden machines were built.

These worked as catapults and threw huge stones.



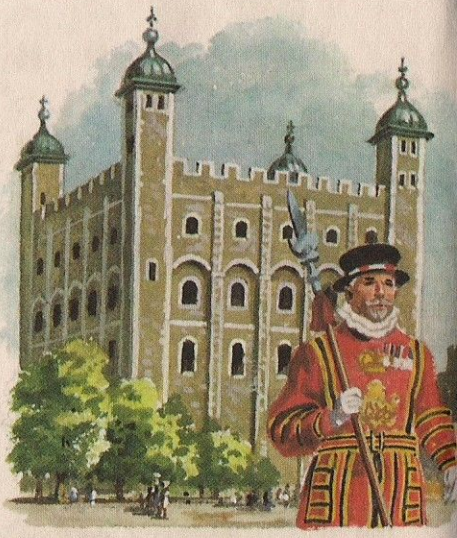
Heavy tree trunks were used to break down castle doors.

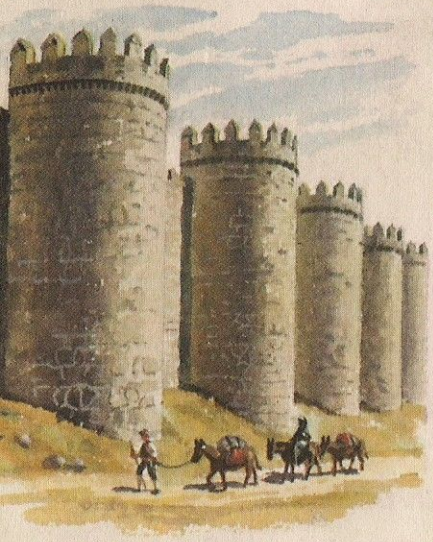
Wooden towers and ladders were used to climb over walls.

Holes were dug under walls.

Towers

A square tower
is called a keep.





These are often
called drum towers.
Do you see why?

Church towers were often like castle towers.

Sometimes the church was the safest place in the village.

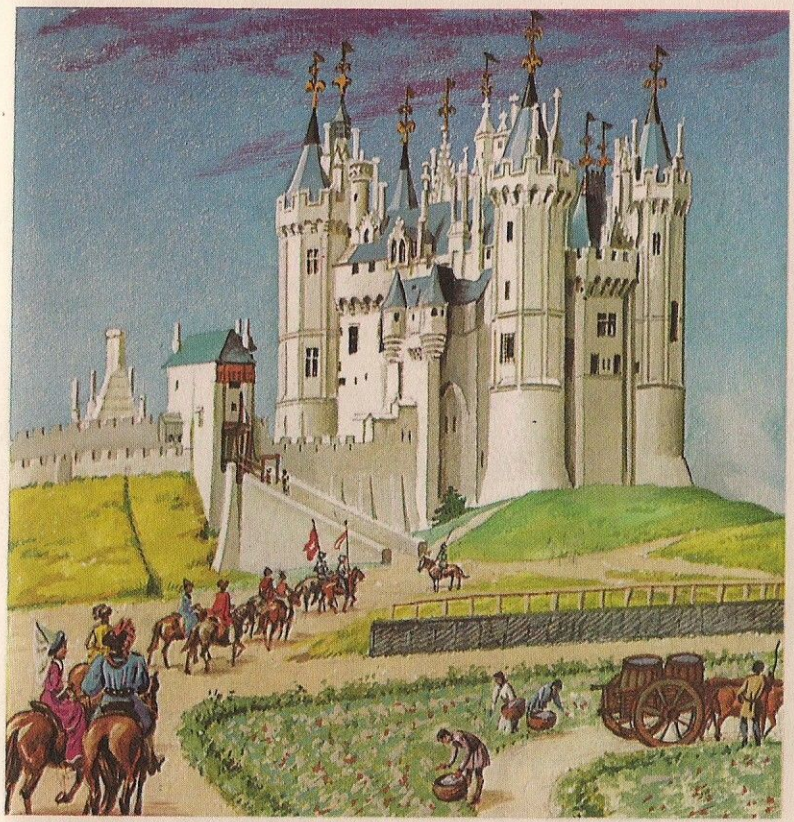
Ships with 'castles'

In the Middle Ages, ships were built with wooden 'castles' at each end.

The front part of a ship's deck is still called the forecastle.

(pronounced fo'c'sle)

A 'fairy-story' castle



This was a real French castle.

It was like a fairy-story castle for a princess or giant.

The towers were round and had tall spires.

A fortified farm-house

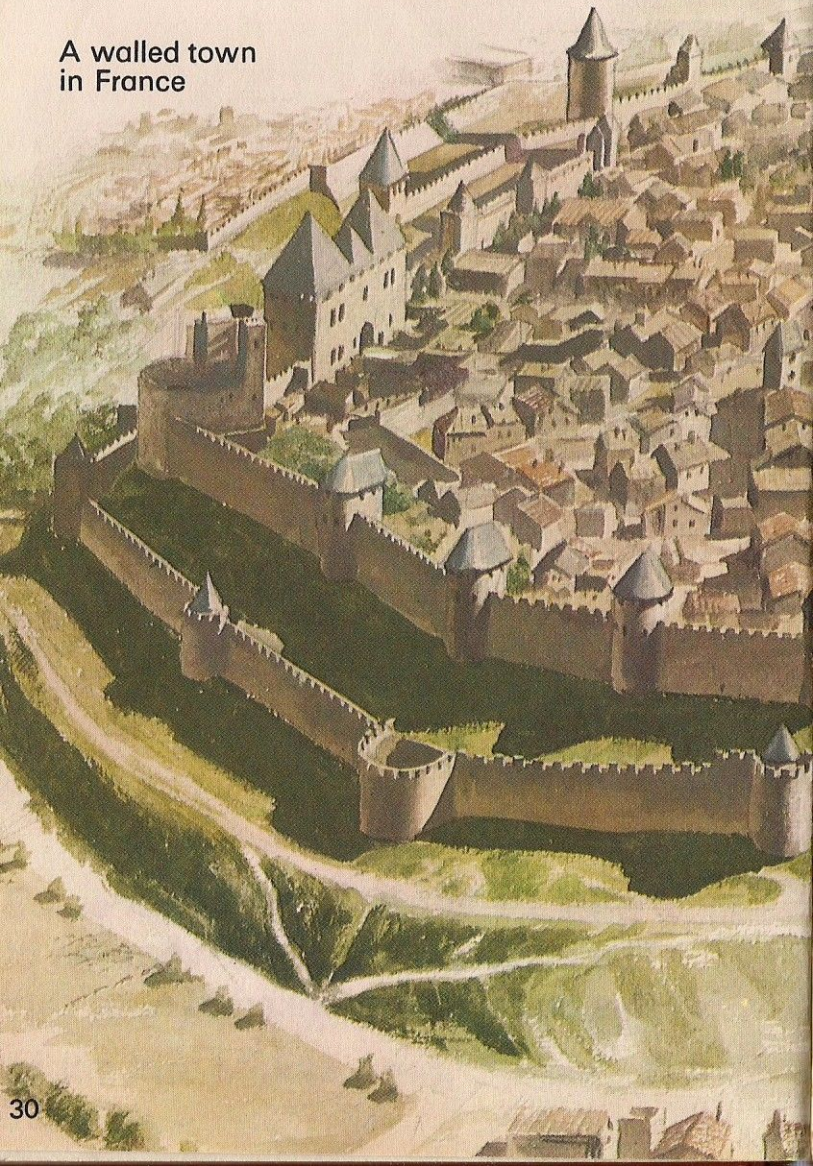
Some farm-houses needed strong walls to defend them against raiders.

This one was a small manor house of the late Middle Ages.

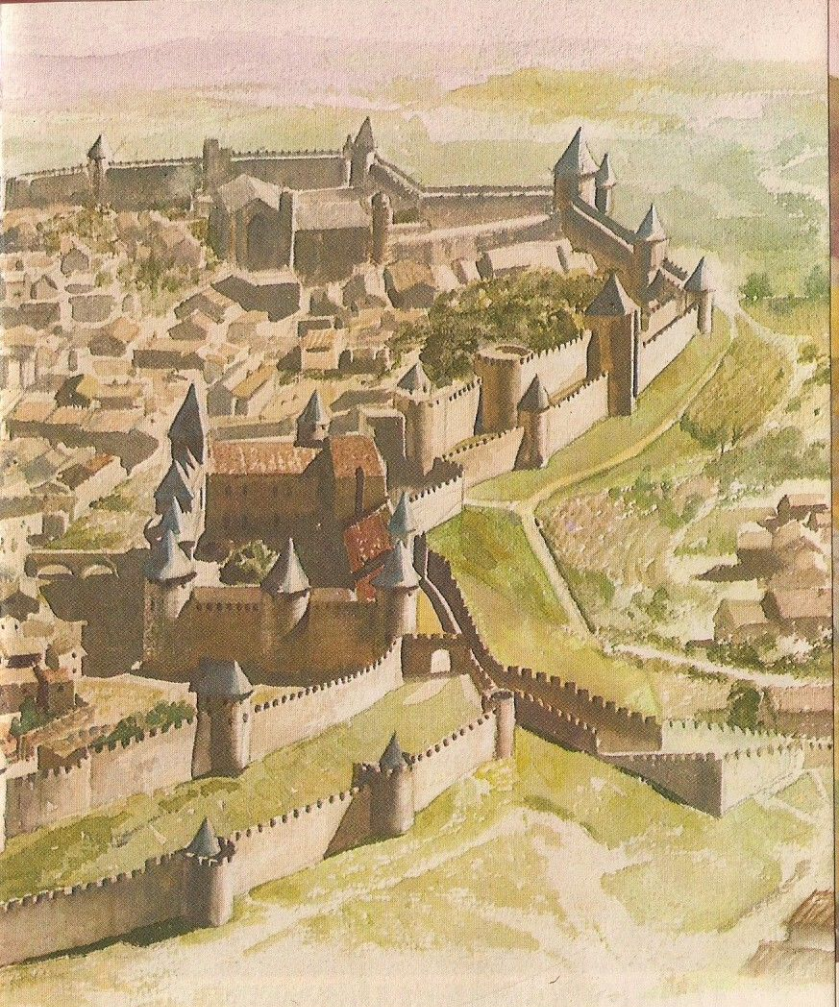
A ruined castle

Many castles today are ruins.
The picture also shows what
this castle once looked like.

Walls around towns

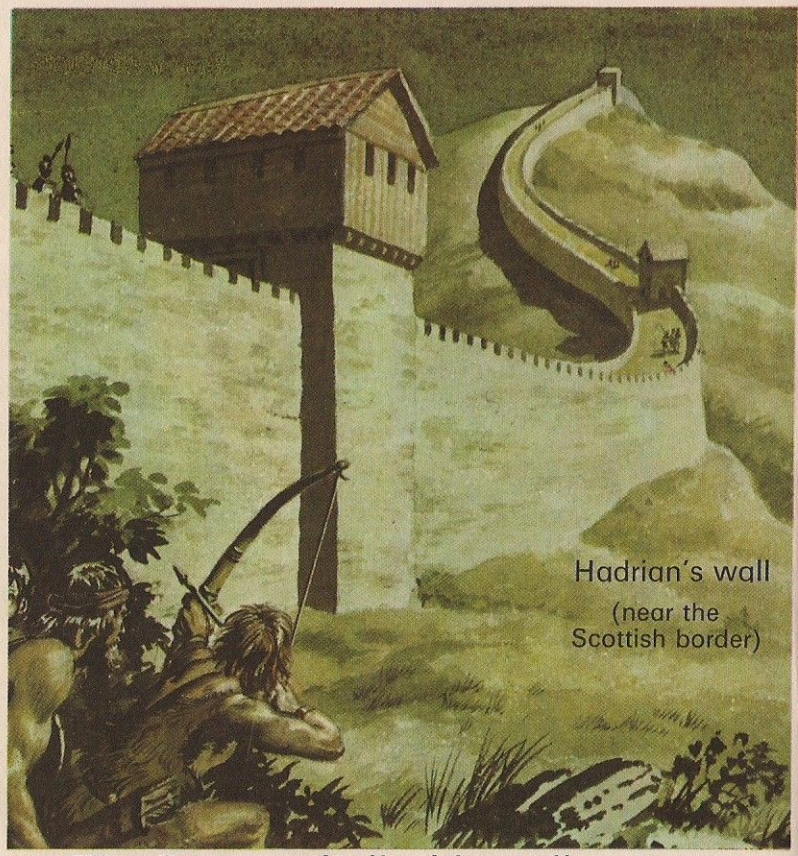


A walled town
in France

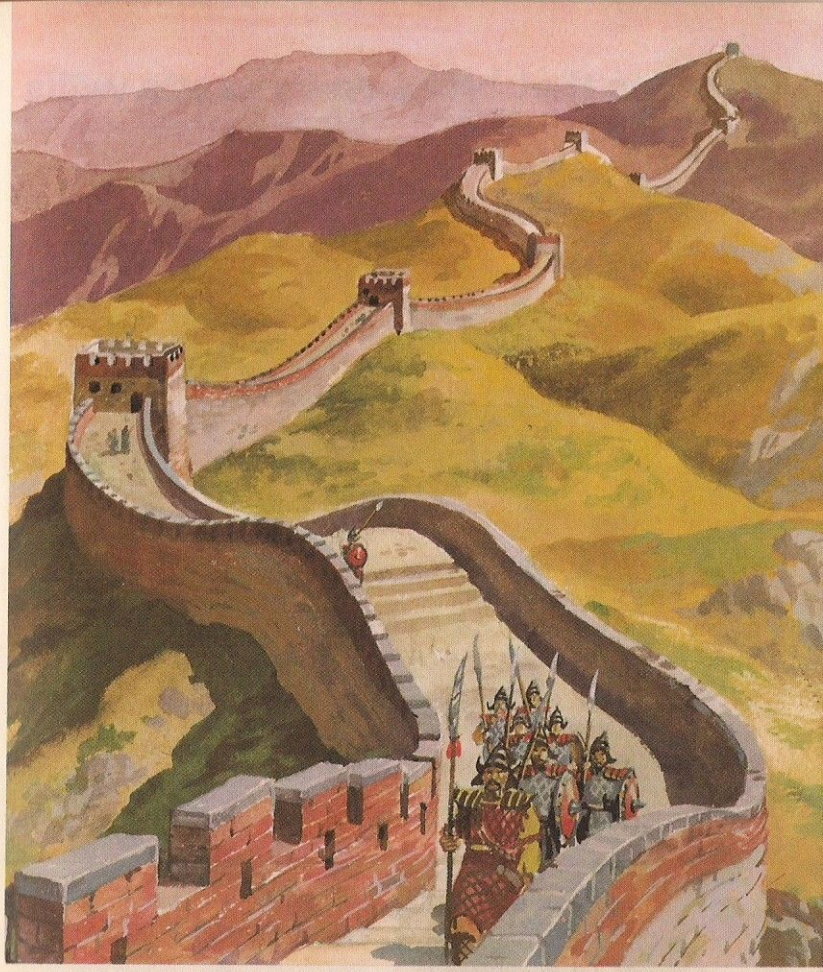


Some towns had walls around them.
These can still be seen in Europe.
In Britain you can see them
at York, Chester and Conway.

Walls between countries

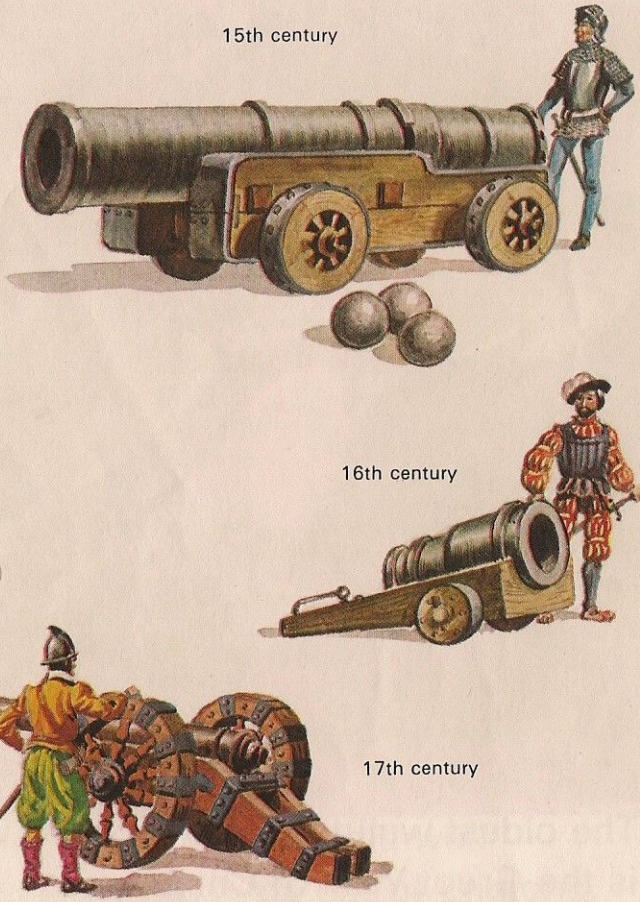


The Romans built this wall
to keep the Picts out of England.
It was 73 miles (117 km) long.
There were small towers and forts
along it.



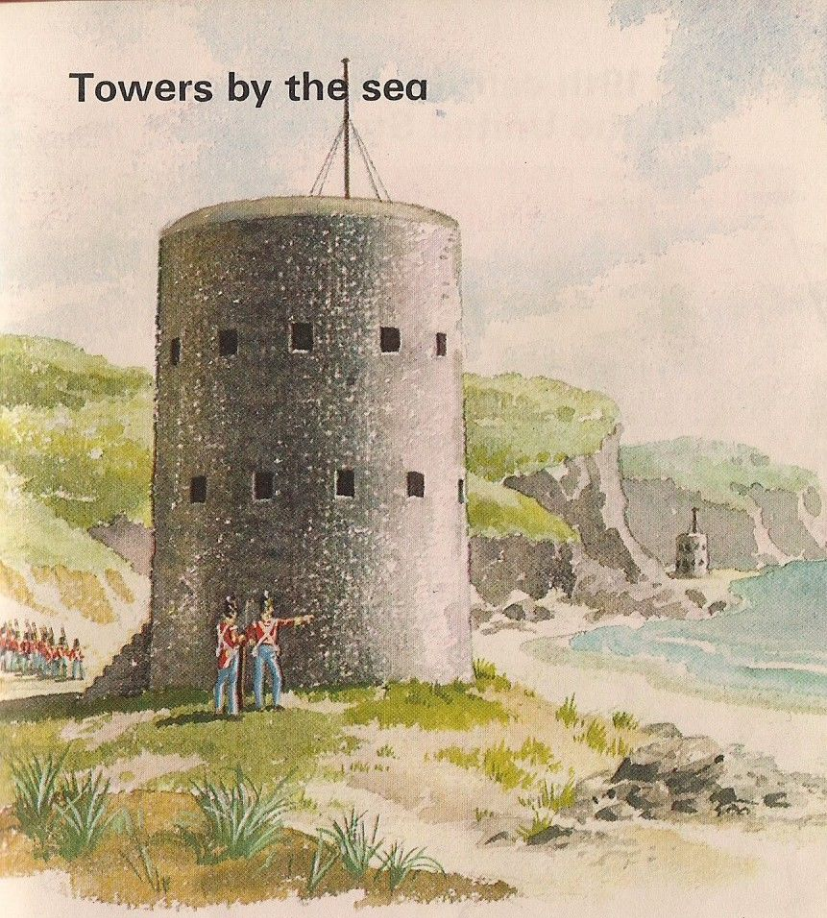
The oldest wall to guard a country
is the Great Wall of China.
It is 2,000 years old
and 1,500 miles (2 414 km) long.

Cannons that broke down castle walls



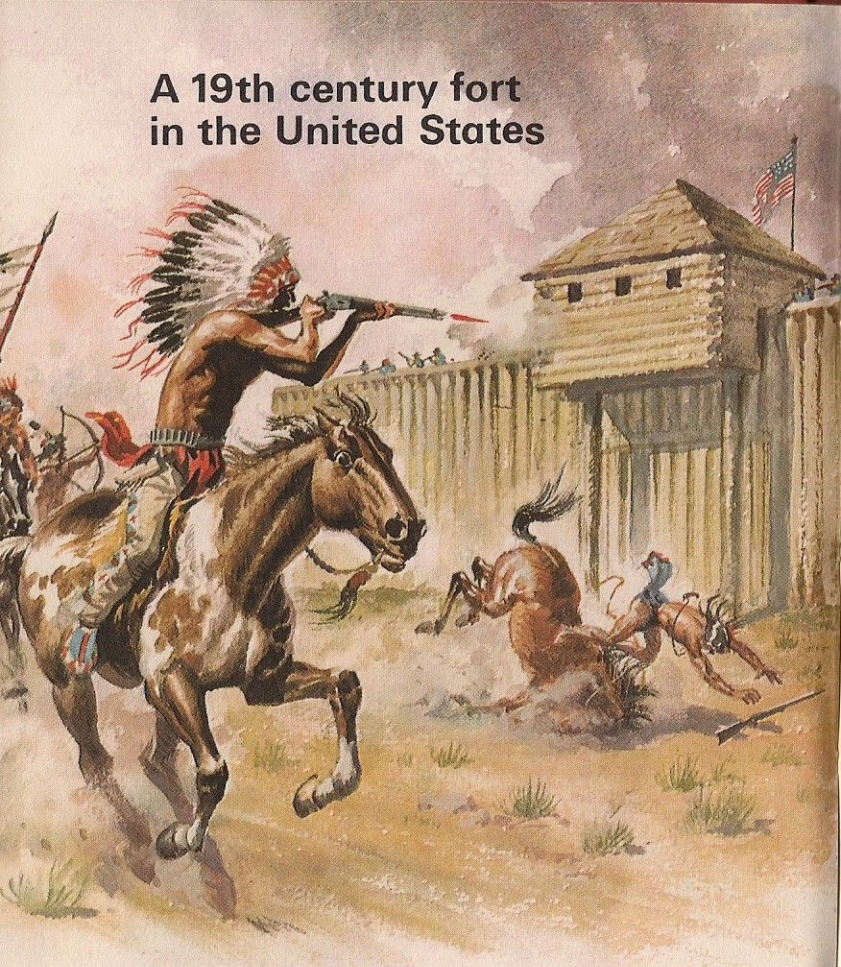
The first cannons were used about 600 years ago.

Towers by the sea



Martello towers like this were used to guard the coast of England. They were built 200 years ago.

A 19th century fort in the United States



Forts like this were used by American soldiers about 120 years ago.

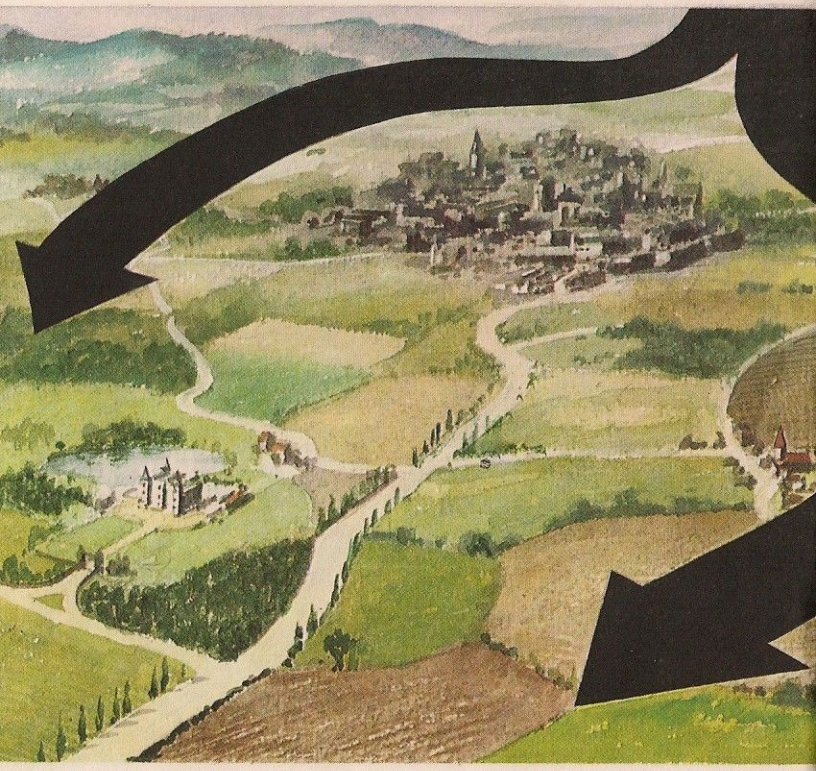
The Indians had no cannons to break down the walls.

A Russian fort

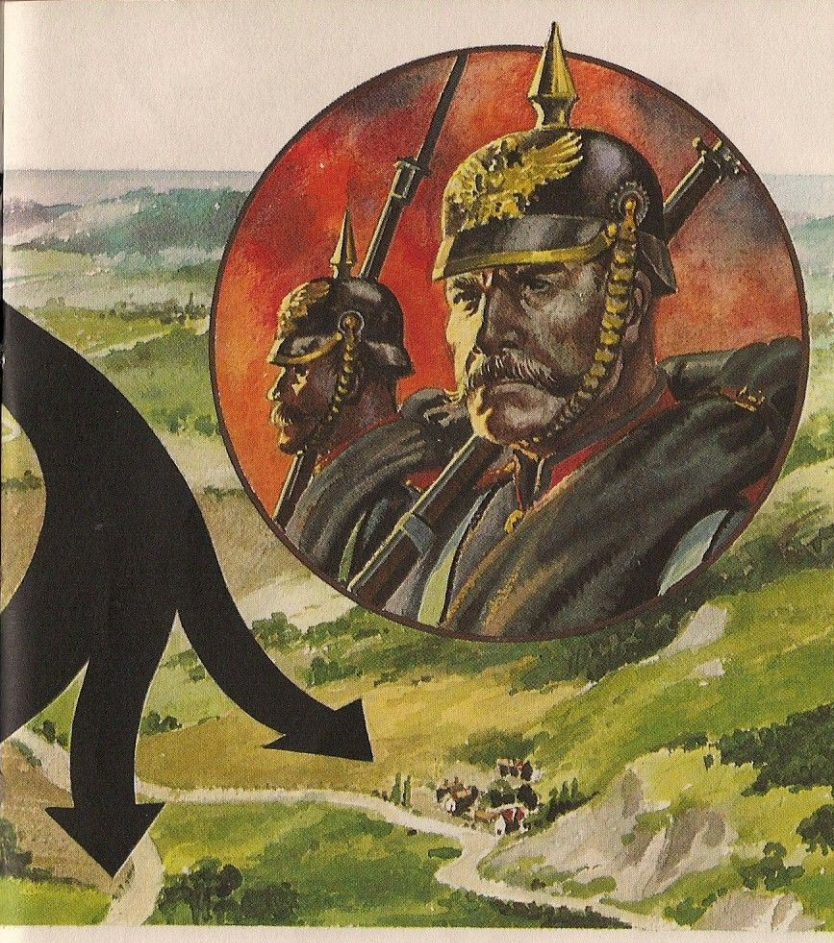
This was the fort of Sebastopol in 1854.

The French and English could not capture it.

Forts became less important

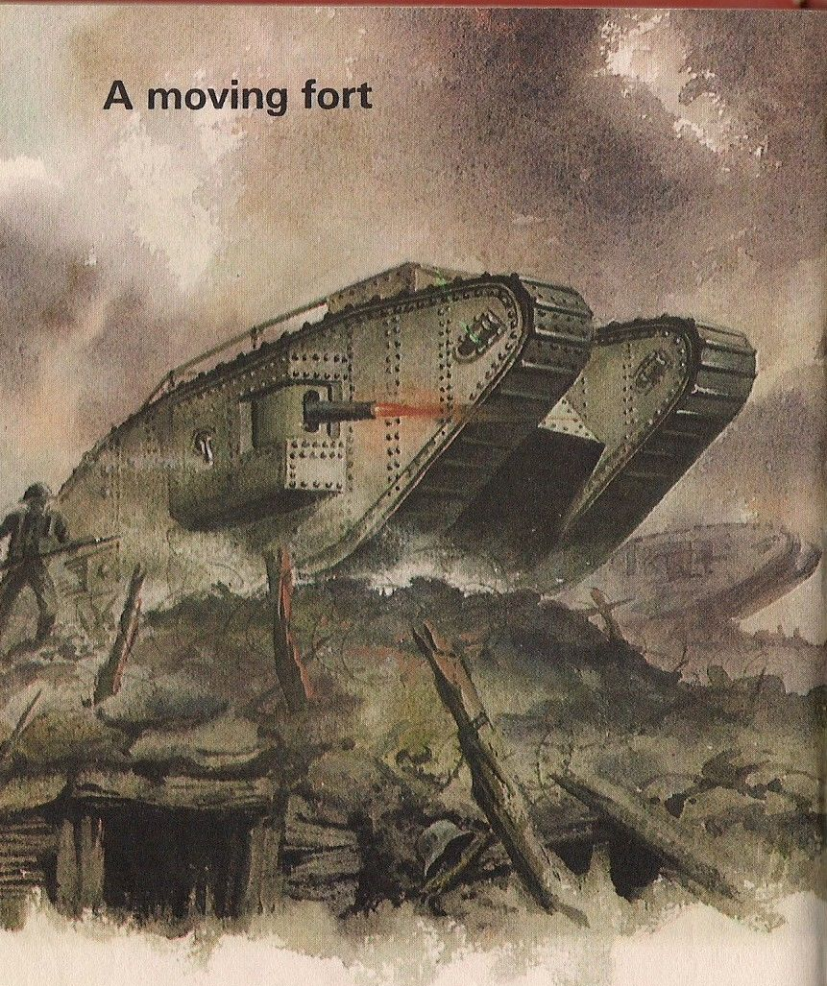


Forts became less important.
Armies marched round them.
In 1870, the Prussians reached
Paris in this way.



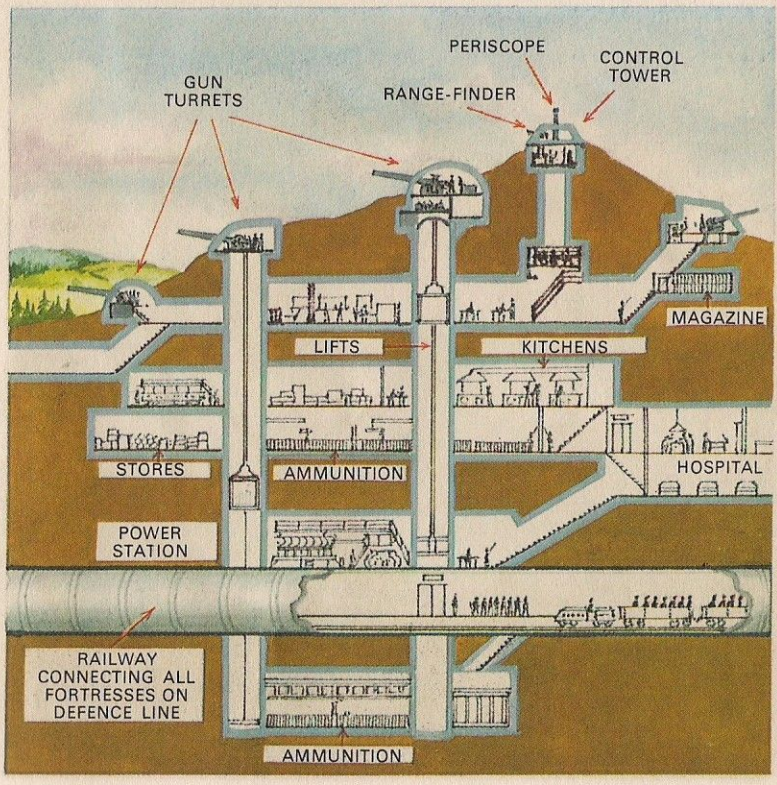
The arrows show how it was done.

A moving fort



A tank is really a moving fort.
This was one of the first tanks.
It was used in 1917,
in the First World War.

The Maginot Line



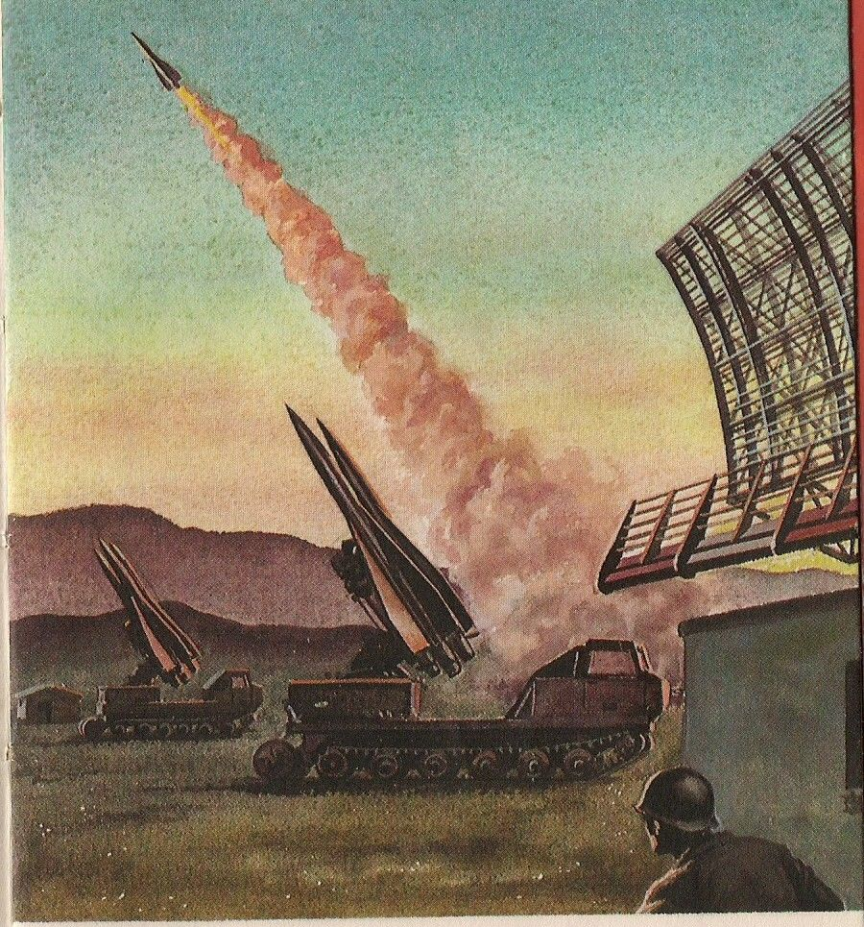
Early in the Second World War, French soldiers lived in forts like this. They worked, ate and slept under the ground.

Defending a modern town

In the Second World War,
bombers attacked towns.

Wires hanging from these balloons
made a kind of wall to stop them.

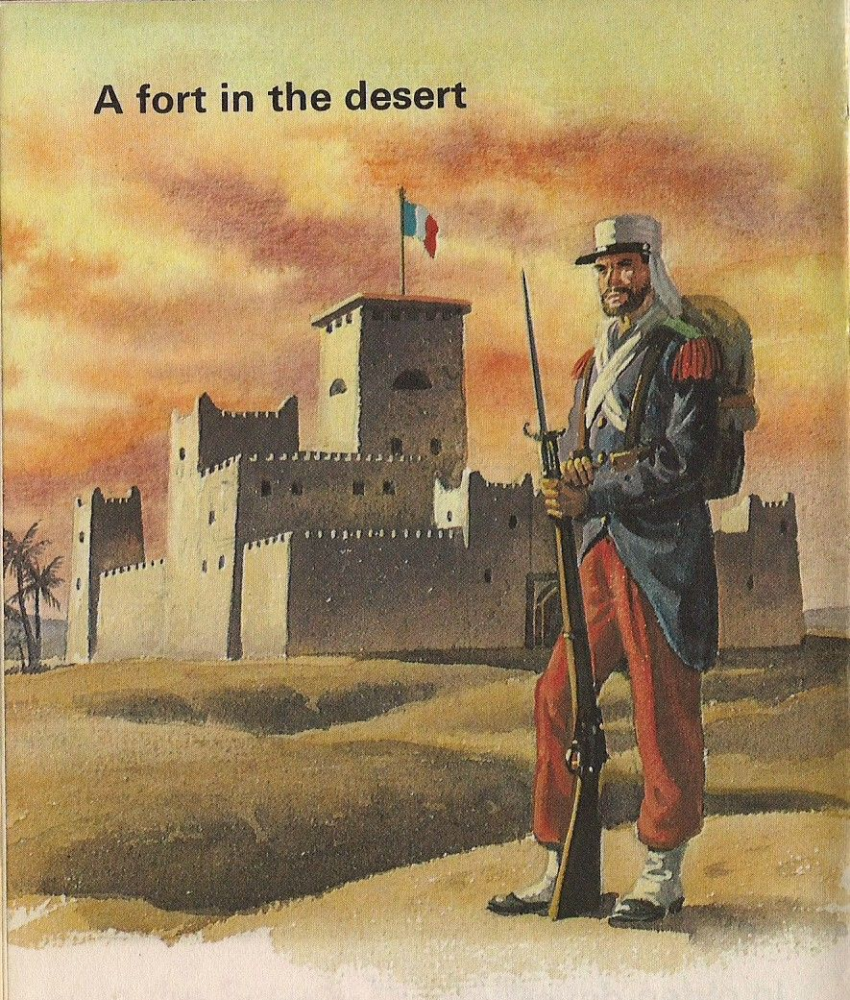
The aircraft could not get too close.



In olden days, defenders on castle walls watched for attackers.

Today, enemy aircraft and rockets, hundreds of miles away, can be shown on a kind of television screen.

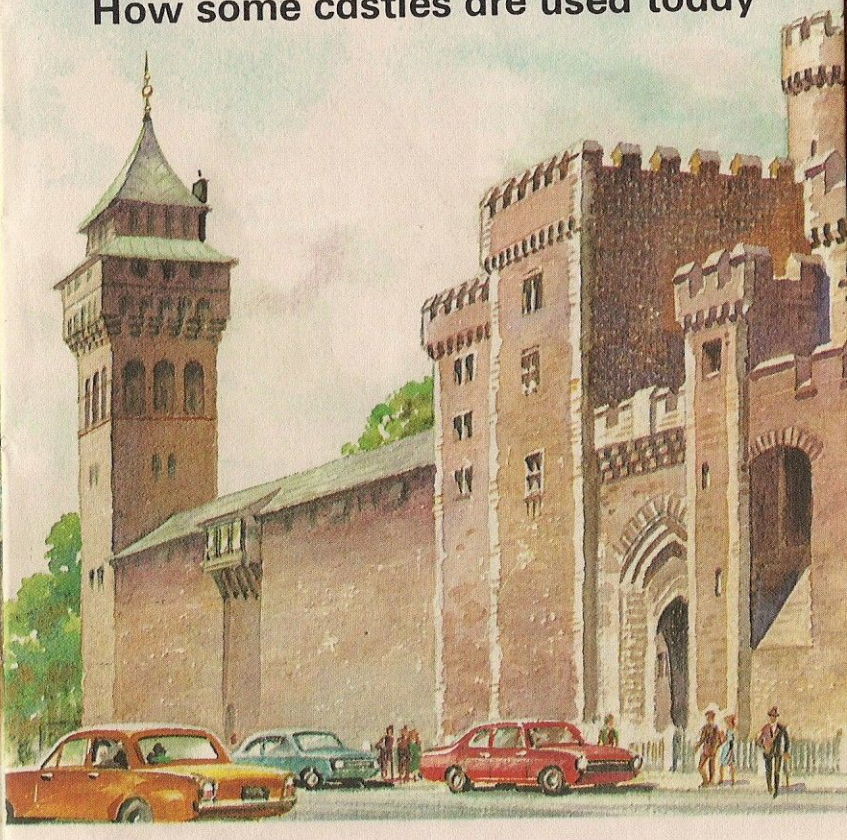
A fort in the desert



Some French soldiers lived in forts like this in the desert.

They were in North Africa.

How some castles are used today



Many castles are still in use today.
This castle in Cardiff
is used as a college.

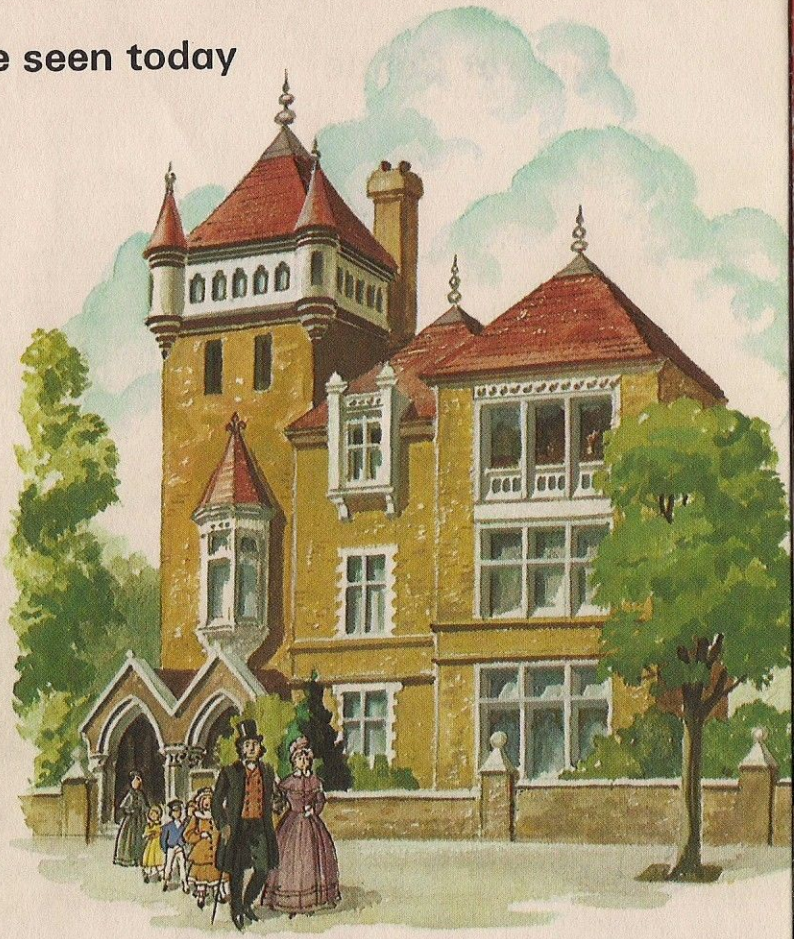
Imitation castles that can sometimes

In the past, some rich people built mock, ruined castles.

These were called follies.

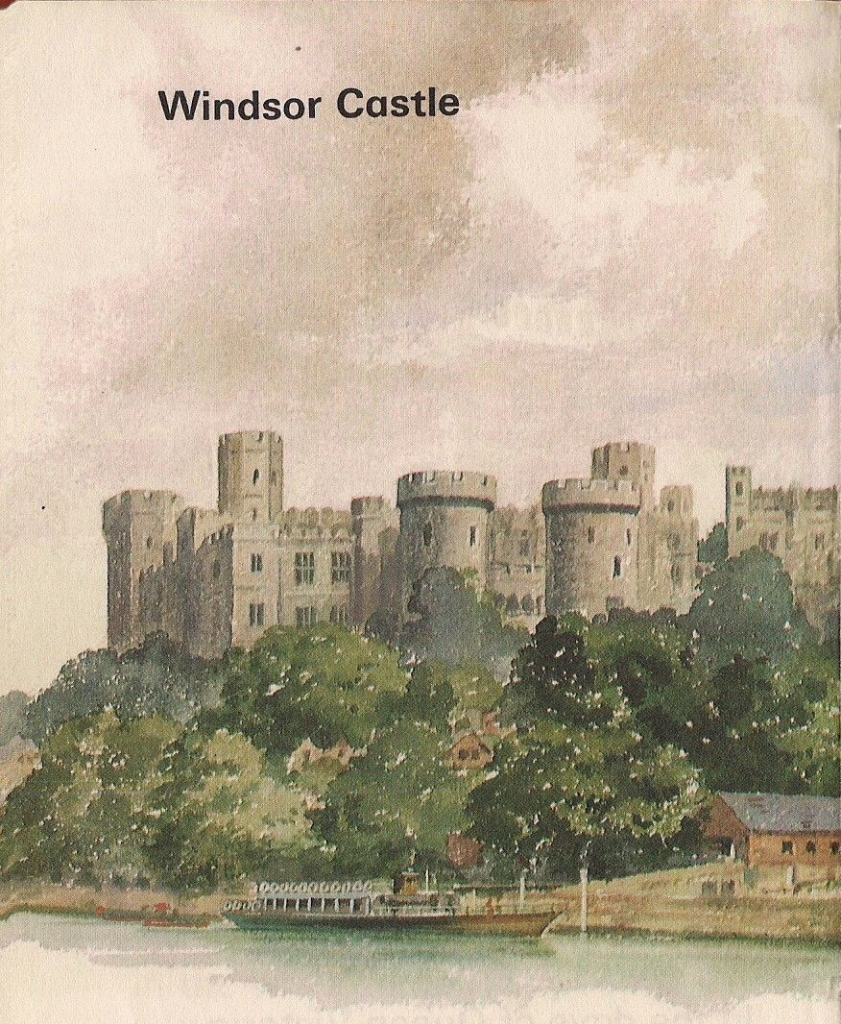
The people thought that follies made their parks more interesting.

be seen today



In the days of Queen Victoria,
some houses like these were built.
They were made to look like castles.
The owners felt more important.

Windsor Castle

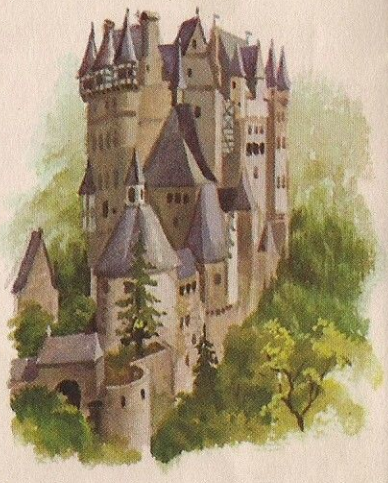


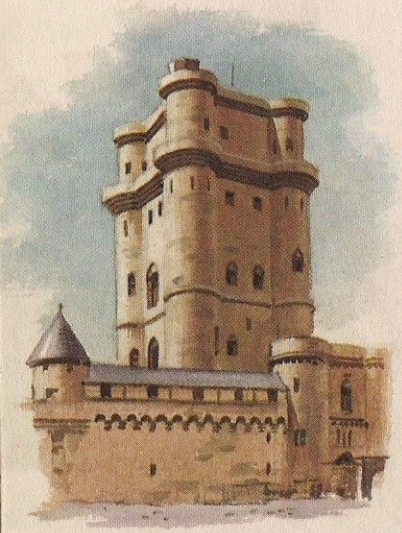
Windsor Castle is the most famous castle in England.

It is one of the homes of the Queen.

There has been a castle here since the time of William the Conqueror.

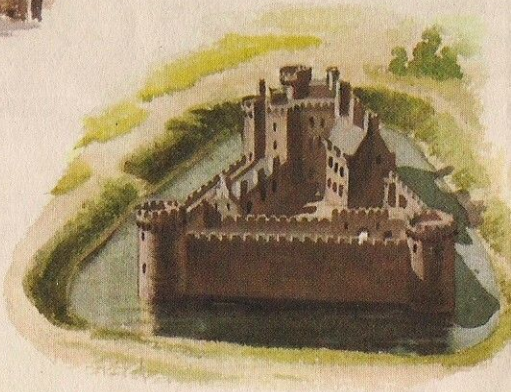
A German castle
in a forest.





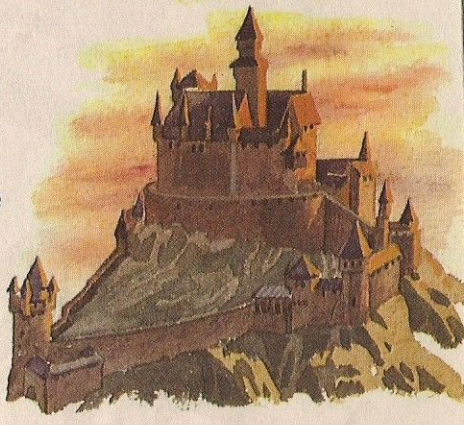
A castle
near Paris.

A Scottish
castle.

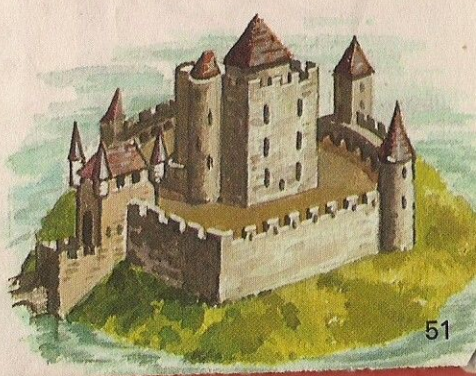


A hunting castle
in Italy.

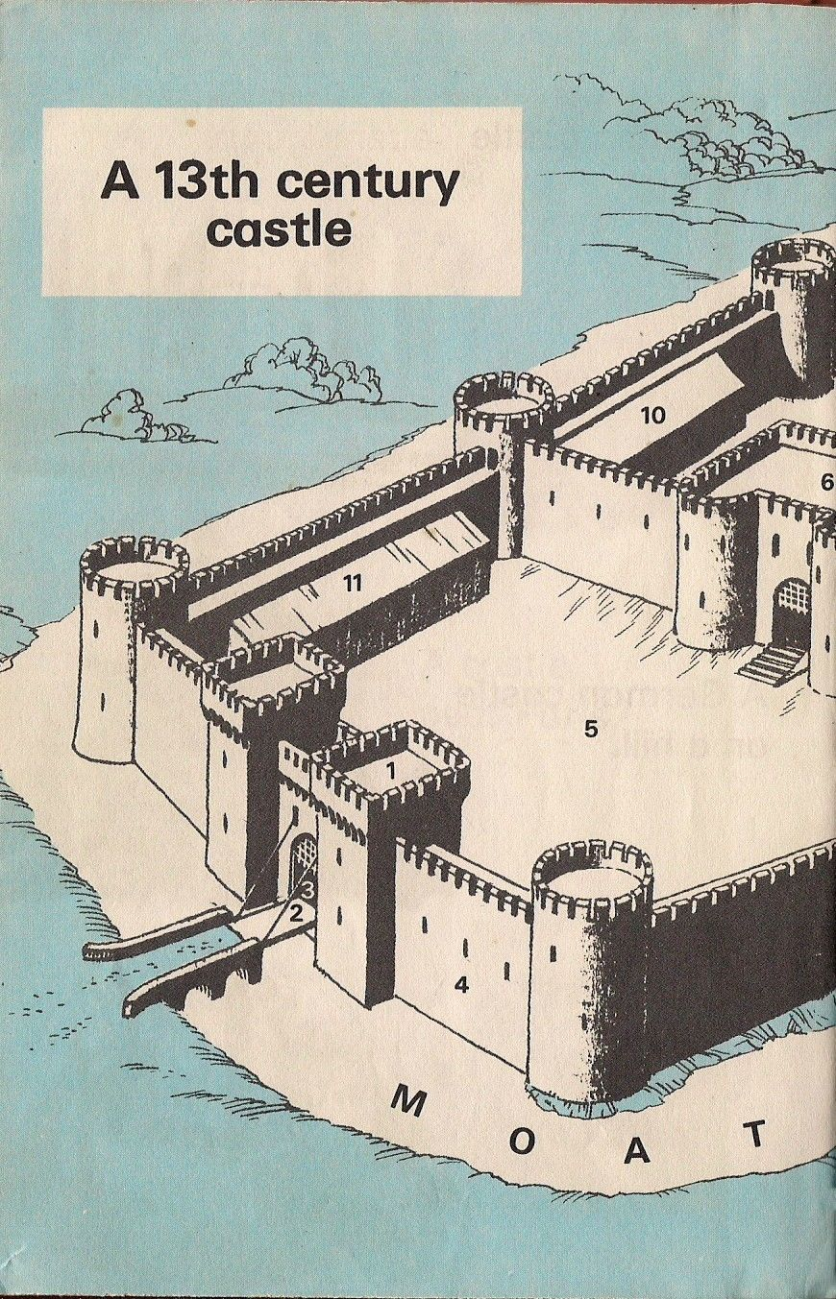
A German castle
on a hill.

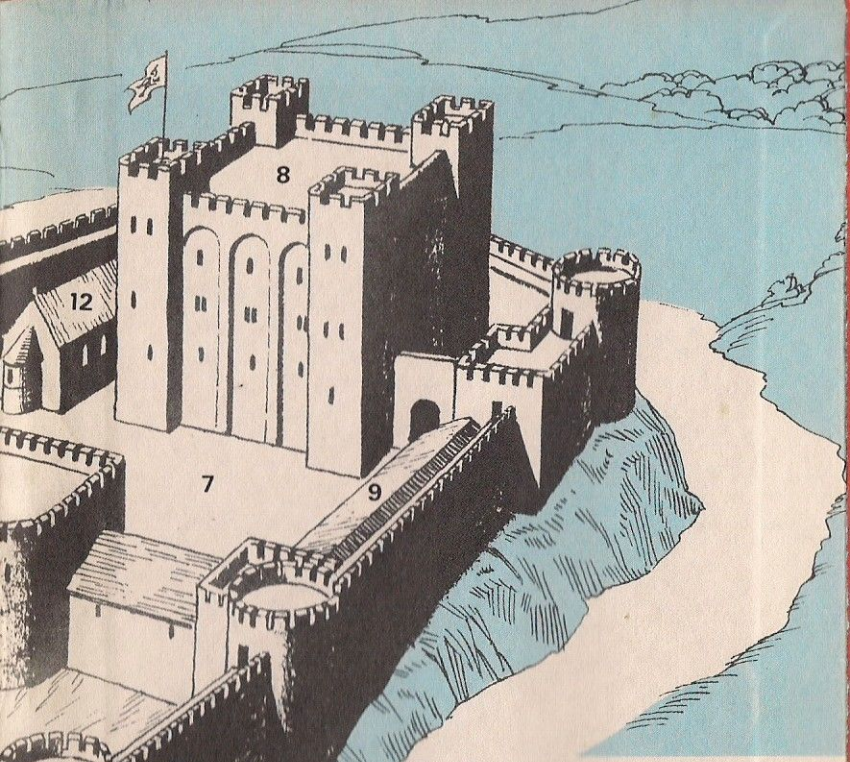


A castle
in Holland.



A 13th century castle





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